

Larix laricina - Betula pumila / Chamaedaphne calyculata Shrubland (Tamarack Scrub Poor Fen)

COMMON NAME	Tamarack - Bog Birch / Leatherleaf Shrubland
SYNONYM	Tamarack Scrub Poor Fen
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Shrubland (III)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Deciduous shrubland (III.B)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Cold-deciduous shrubland (III.B.2)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural (III.B.2.N)
FORMATION	Saturated cold-deciduous shrubland (III.B.2.N.g)
ALLIANCE	BETULA PUMILA - (SALIX SPP.) SATURATED SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 2

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM PALUSTRINE

RANGE

Voyageurs National Park

It is not known for sure whether this type occurs in the park. It may occur in the Rat Root River peatlands.

Globally

This association is found in Minnesota and probably Ontario.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Voyageurs National Park

Globally

Stands that occur on the margins of water tracks, generally being less mineral rich and having greater cover of tamarack, are most likely to contain the habitat for this type.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Voyageurs National Park

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
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Globally

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Voyageurs National Park

Globally

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Voyageurs National Park

Globally

The type concept is that of a scrub poor fen, where tree height does not exceed 2 m. The type has been defined by the Minnesota Natural Heritage Program type as the "poor fen, scrub tamarack subtype" (MN HP 1993). Range-wide review is still needed, and type does not clearly match any type in Harris *et al.* (1996), but comes closest to the poor fen: ericaceous shrub/ wire sedge / Sphagnum type (W20).

CONSERVATION RANK

DATABASE CODE Cegl005226

COMMENTS

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This type may or may not occur in the Rat Root River Peatlands in and near Voyageurs. Stands that occur in the water tracks of the large peatland have been labelled as Northern Sedge Poor Fen (CEGL002265). They are

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analogous to Ontario's W19 and W20 (Harris *et al.* 1996). Those that occur on the margins of water tracks, generally being less mineral rich and having greater cover of tamarack, are floristically most similar to the Tamarack Scrub Poor Fen type, which is somewhat analogous to Ontario's W20. Part of the difficulty is resolving how much of the tamarack is scrub (< 3m tall) vs tree (> 3 m tall) from an aerial vs ground perspective. The wetter phase of this type occurs in the water tracks, is more clearly graminoid-dominated, and often contains standing water in the hollows.

REFERENCES